systematic action on tackling this big problem of child labour. I have had a number of meetings with the non-Governmental organisations. I had meetings with the trade union leaders. I had meetings with the employers of the child labour or the representatives of the industry where there is concentration of child labour. What the hon. Member has suggested is very practical. Now this problem has to be tackled systematically. What we have decided is that in States where the number of children is less, we have identified ten of them ....

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Sir, is it that the Minister would go on explaining the validity of one particular item of child labour .... *(Interruptions)* .... Let him limit himself.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, let him limit himself to the question put by Mr. Jagmohan.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Is there any point in seeking supplementaries only on one question ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am going to the next question 264. Shri Mohinder Singh Lather .... *(Interruptions)* .... Please give a notice. There is no point in spending the whole hour on this. Please give a notice for a discussion, a half-an-hour discussion; I will agree to that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Supplementaries are hijacked.

(Interruptions).

SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY : Sir, should we walk out from the House in protest against it ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, please.

SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY : Should we walk out from the House in protest against your discrimination ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, you cannot say like that.... *(Interruptions)* .... Will you sit down ? Will you please sit down? .... *(Interruptions)* .... I went according to the order of notice. I went according to the order how the Members caught my eye. Q. No. 264. Shri Mohinder Singh Lather.

Losses of BCCL, Madhuban

*264. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :†
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (Madhuban) and its allied colleries are running into heavy loss;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the estimated day to day loss of the BCCL, and what is the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) whether Government have enquired into the causes of this loss and whether any quick remedial steps have been taken by Government to make good the losses; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof stating the measures, if any, taken by Government assuring that such losses should not occur in any public sector collieries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Madhuban is an underground mine is Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) which is incurring losses. According to available information, approximately 84% mines in BCCL are making losses. The losses incurred by BCCL during 1991-92, before Coal Price Regulation Accrual (CPRA) amounted to Rs. 380.09 crores.

The main reasons for these losses are as follows :

(i) In Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) the composition of underground production of the total production is higher. Cost of underground mining per unit is generally higher than the cost of opencast mining.

(ii) The average size of the mines in BCCL is small. The size of the mine determines the economics of production, By and large, due to the presence of various geo-mining problems, even after reorganisation of some of the mines, the average size of the mines in BCCL is small.

(iii) Most of the mines in BCCL have adverse

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mohinder Singh Lather.

geo-mining conditions and require stowing of sand in winning of coal. This adds to the cost of winning of coal.

(iv) Surplus manpower in BCCL.

(v) Problems of availability of power and acquisition of land is pronounced in areas where coal mining operations are being carried out.

(vi) Non-inclusion of certain components of cost namely interest, depreciation and return on equity in the administered price of coal on a number of occasions in the past.

(vii) Time lag between incidence of wage revision as well as escalation in price of inputs and revision of coal price.

Measures taken for checking and reducing the losses in public sector collieries include the following :

(i) Various measures have been taken to effectively control and contain the cost of production as to have an adequate margin for sustained growth. While growth in production is being maintained, there has been consistent improvement in overall productivity. There has been a reduction in the unit cost of production in real terms by containing the increase in unit cost against the rate of inflation.

(ii) Following additional steps have been taken for achieving higher production and productivity so that the cost of production is kept to the minimum.

(a) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new hands against vacancies caused by natural wastage.

(b) Control of increase in manpower through voluntary retirement.

(c) Concept of "all men all Jobs" is being tried on experimental basis.

(d) Improvement in availability and utilisation of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipments. Procurement of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery and other equipments are scrutinised more closely so that addition to plant and machinery is minimised.

(e) Special emphasis on underground mines to improve the productivity and profitability.

(f) Steps taken for maintaining better coordination with State Governments and also with the appropriate authorities for acquisition of requisite land so that the mining activities can be taken as per schedule.

(g) Capital expenditure reduction without impairing short-term/long-term production potential so that impact of interest and depreciation in the future cost of production is minimised.

श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर : चेयरमेन सर, यह मंत्री महोदय ने डिटेल में जवाब देने की कोशिश की है, मैं इनको मुबारकबाद देना चाहता हूं, लेकिन इन्होंने यह जो लोसेस के बारे में बताया, सिर्फ एक ही साल का बताया कि 1991-92 में 380 करोड़ के लोसेस हुए । 380 करोड़, इट इज शॉकिंग, सर । कोयला इतना अहमियत रखता है हमारी जिन्दगी के लिए, यह मंत्री महोदय बखूबी जानते हैं । इन्होंने यह भी हमें नहीं बताया कि जो कोल प्राईस रेग्यूलेशन इश्यूवल के बाद अब इस माईन की क्या पोजिशन है? यह भी इन्होंने अपने जवाब में नहीं दिया है । It is not my supplementary. You have not supplied me the information. मैंने पूछा है whether the BCCL is running into losses and, if so, what the details thereof are, stating the estimated day-to-day losses. Please furnish that.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, the total amount of losses for 1991-92 has been given in answer (a) to (d). The details of day-to-day losses for the current year or the year 1992-93 are not calculated. The accounts for 1993-94 have not yet been firmed up. But the accounts for the year 1991-92 have been firmed up and settled and that is why the total figure has been given.

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Sir, I have gone through the reasons given by the Government about the losses. **और मुझे अफसोस यह है कि जो सबसे बड़ा रीजन है—जो कोल के अंदर, इन माईंस के अंदर लोसेस हो रहे हैं, वह मंत्री महोदय ने नहीं दिया । चेयरमेन सर, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि क्या उनके नोटिस में है कि वहां पर ऐसे माफिया गिरोह हैं जो कि जबर्दस्ती से वहां के कोयले को बेचते हैं या अफसरों से मिलकर वह एक-एक हजार रुपया, दो-दो हजार रुपया फी टन कोयले पर चार्ज करते हैं और सारा कंट्रोल यह अंडरटेकिंग का न होकर, सरकार का न होकर माफिया ग्रुप का चल रहा है और उसी की वजह से यह सारे लोसेस वहां पर हो रहे हैं ।**

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, so far as the reasons for losses are concerned, I had given

them in detail. The hon. Member wants to know whether the mafia operation there is one of the reasons for the losses. So far as this is concerned, (as it is called 'mafia operation') about illegal sale of coal or extraction thereof, whenever any particular case comes to notice immediately an FIR is lodged and action is taken through the State Government machinery. So far as the Ministry is concerned, we have not found that the mafia operation or theft of coal is the main reason for the losses in BCCL.

श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर : सर, मंत्री महोदय ने हमें यह इनफार्मेशन नहीं दी कि कितने केसेज माफिया ग्रुप के हो चुके हैं और वहां पर हर रोज कोयले की इस किस्म की कितनी चोरी हो रही है? सारी खानें—84 परसेंट माईंस लोसेस में चल रही है। यह डिटेल्स मंत्री महोदय को देनी चाहिए थी कि कितने माफिया ग्रुप के खिलाफ अभी तक एक्शन लिया गया, कितने केसेज अब तक डिटेक्ट हुए। This information has not been given. यह बड़ा इम्पोर्टेंट है सर, कुल कितने केसेस हैं ऐसे ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, this question, as I see it, is directed otherwise. For getting information as to in how many cases an FIR is lodged, I need notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya.

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Sir, my second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have asked the second supplementary.

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : I have not asked, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why not?

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : I have only sought information on my first supplementary. सर, मंत्री महोदय ने एक रीजन यह भी दिया है कि surplus manpower in BCCL. मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि बी० सी० सी० एल० के अंदर जो यह ओवर स्टाफिंग की गई, तो यह क्यों की गई, किसने की और क्या सरकार ने इसकी जिम्मेदारी किसी के ऊपर डाली है, क्योंकि ओवर स्टाफिंग करके जो एक्सपेंडिचर बढ़ा, तो क्या कोई आदमी, कोई आथॉरिटी उसके लिए जिम्मेदार होगा और चूंकि उन लोगों को अब निकाला नहीं जा सकता, तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या आपने इसकी कोई इंक्वायरी कराई है कि यह ओवर स्टाफिंग किसने की और कैसे हुई और इसके लिए कौन जिम्मेदार हैं ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, this overstaffing was not done after nationalisation. What happened at the time of nationalisation was that a list was produced as to the persons who were engaged therein and whatever the list the private owners gave they had been taken. Therefore, they cannot be thrown out overnight because of nationalisation. Since nationalisation the increase in 20 years appears to be one lakh, a little more than one lakh people, from miner up to the highest category. Five lakh and fifty thousand employees were taken at the time of nationalisation. Now it is about six lakhs fifty thousand.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : As Mr. Lather has pointed out, the Minister has not replied to the original question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : No, Sir . . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you asking your supplementary?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't say it is explanation. That is what I am saying.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Sir, I have not received the reply from the Minister to the original question. Kindly go through the main question. Sir, the question relates to the total losses. The Minister has mentioned figures pertaining to the years 1991-92. My submission is that the Minister should come out with a full answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is the Minister able to give figures of the total loss?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, so far as the total loss is concerned, kindly see the tenor of the question. The question is, "Whether Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (Madhuban) and its allied collieries are running into heavy losses the figure of present year or the last year is being referred to. Then part (b) of the question is, "if so, what are the details thereof, stating the estimated day to day loss..." Sir, the day to day loss is a calculated figure. The cumulative figure of that particular one year, i. e. 1991-92, has been given. This year 1992-93, the account has not yet been firmed up. I have already answered that. Sir, total cumulative loss for one year has been given.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Sir. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Malaviya, you have wasted the time.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : That was not my supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that. You have wasted time in asking that question because that question was already answered. Please put your supplementary very briefly.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Government appoint a Joint Parliamentary Committee to go into the details as to why these losses were incurred and why the BCCL is not able to earn profit ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, as presently advised, it appears that no more committee is necessary. I found that several reports of various Committees are there. I had also the opportunity to study the ECL and the BCCL. You will be pleased to know that for the period April to June and in fact, upto July also—I have got the figures—although it was running at a loss for a long time, after making a detailed, intensive study, in which I myself was involved, the BCCL, for the first time, has made plus points in coal production, productivity and coal offtake. So far as production is concerned, growth was plus 3.30 per cent. So, far as productivity and offtake is concerned, growth was plus 7.89 per cent and plus 20.10 per cent respectively. Therefore, after taking certain corrective steps, it is going in the direction of doing well this year.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्रा : सभापति महोदय, मैं सरकार से दो बिंदुओं पर सफाई चाहता हूं । पहली बात तो यह है कि क्या कारण है कि बार-बार पार्लियामेंट की या दूसरी कमेटियां रिपोर्ट देती है तब भी कोल माईंस की जो मशीनरी है, उसकी कैपेसिटी का 100 पर्सेंट-यूटिलाइजेशन जारी है । यानी 60 पर्सेंट से ज्यादा यूटिलाइजेशन होता ही नहीं है, बार-बार समान रिपोर्टस के बावजूद । एक तो मैं एक बिंदु पर सफाई चाहता हूं और दूसरा यह है कि कोकिंग कोल का प्राईस जो इंडिया में है वह बेवीली सप्रेस्ड है । मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूं कि जो कोयला आप आस्ट्रेलिया से इंपोर्ट करते हैं, कोकिंग कोल, उसका क्या दाम है और नी० सी० सी० एल० के कोकिंग कोल का क्या दाम है? अगर माननीय सदस्यों को दोनों दाम बता दिए जाएं तो पता चल जायगा कि लॉस का क्या कारण है ।

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : So far as the first portion is concerned, I share the concern of the hon. Member. Proper utilisation or optimum utilisation of not only manpower but also of the machines is concerned. I had meetings with the officers. We are trying to increase the optimum utilisation of machines by making full inventory and utilisation thereof.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : That was not my question. It is good of you that you have been holding meetings. All the Ministers are holding meetings. I am an old man who knows all these things. I am asking you as to why it is persisting. Have you ever enquired into the matter as to why even after your predecessors have held so many meetings, nothing has come out of it ? That is my question. So, you should reply to this question. Secondly, I want to know about the price of coking coal in comparison with the coal imported from Australia.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, before even I completed, the hon. Member stood up. I wanted to say the reason as to why it is persisting year after year in spite of various committees as well as Members of Parliament making their recommendations. Some of those corrective steps which we have taken and which have been showing results in the first quarter are : (i) making the top man responsible for the important and costly machines remaining there; (ii) having the spare parts availability centre near the mines where those heavy machines are working; and (iii) proper utilisation of the machines by stacking them in the store in a proper manner. These are the corrective steps which have been taken so far. So far as the second part is concerned, that is, about the price of the Indian coal and the Australian coal, there is no information with me. I need notice for it. But as far as my knowledge goes, our coal price is much lower than that in any other part of the world.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that the production of coal per worker is the lowest in India compared to that in any other part of the world. In Australia, the production per worker per day is 15 to 16 tonnes; in China, the per worker production is 5 tonnes; but in BCCL, as you know, it is half a ton. What are the reasons for this and what steps are you going to take to increase the production per worker per day ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : The output per man-shift, both of underground as well as opencast, may be low. But I do not know how the hon. Member got the figure relating to China. When we compare the underground and opencast output per man-shift, ours is higher

than China. But, in China, so far as the underground output per man-shift is concerned, it is much higher than the Indian output per man-shift. I have got the figures from 1988-89. The output of both underground and open-cast has been increasing.

In NCCL as well as CIL, we don't want to have much higher production because if the coal is not dispatched in time, it may get destroyed by fire. Therefore, the production is determined according to the target fixed. But we are not satisfied with the total output and so far as underground production is concerned, we are trying to improve it.

श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूंगा कि मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में कुछ नई कोयले की खदानें खुली हैं। अभी माननीय सदस्य महोदय का प्रश्न था खदानों और उनके घाटे के बारे में, यह देखने को मिला है कि मध्य प्रदेश के जितने भी सीमावर्ती प्रान्त हैं जहां पर कोयले की खानें घाटे में चल रही हैं, वहां पर कुछ ऐसे गिरोह काम कर रहे हैं और वहां के लोगों को ला-ला कर हम लोगों के मध्य प्रदेश और छत्तीसगढ़ में उनकी भाजी कर रहे हैं। इसलिए वहां जो शिक्षित बेरोजगार लोग हैं उनकी रोज़ी रोटी मार खा रही है। मैं आपसे पूछना चाहूंगा कि इसे रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या-क्या उपाय कर रही है ?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, this question relates to Bharat Coking Coal, Madhuban. But as far as Chattisgarh is concerned, since the hon. Member has shown interest, I will send him the information that he has asked for.

Fixing of Higher Growth Rate For Enhancing Economic Reforms

*265. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Statement of the President, Indian Merchant's Chamber proposing that the economy should fix higher growth rate to increase the pace of economic reforms;

(b) if so, Government's comments thereon; and

(c) what were the targets and actual growth rates during 1992-93 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The purpose of economic reforms is more efficient use of resources in the economy to realise higher growth. Growth targets have been fixed keeping in view these possibilities as also the pace of economic reforms.

(c) The targeted growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on an average for the five year period during the Eighth Five Year Plan is 5.6 per cent. As per the advance estimates made by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth in GDP in 1992-93 is likely to be about 4.2 per cent.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, I am surprised that the Minister in his own reply is contradicting himself. From his own statistics, it should have been clear to him that the targets which he has mentioned are now not achievable any more. The Eighth Plan target for growth is 5.6% according to his own statement. First of all, it is said to be a high target. During the Seventh Plan, the average is 5.5%. During the Eighth Plan, the assumed growth rate is 5.6%. Two years are already over. In the current year, he says that it is 4.2% and in the last year I think it was 3-odd per cent. Assuming that to be so then for the next three years, you will have to have an average of 6.7% growth to achieve the average of 5.6%. But it is not possible. Everybody knows that 6.7% is not possible. I want to know from the Minister whether in view of the realities of the last two years, his Ministry or the Planning Commission has revised the target to bring a more realistic figure before the country so that we are not under a wrong impression that we can achieve anywhere near 5.6%.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Sir, in my reply, I have not contradicted myself. What I said was that we have fixed 5.6% to be the growth rate for the Eighth Plan. We have done a realistic assessment under certain norms. On that basis only, we can give the figures. On the second point which the hon. Member has referred to, I said "likely to achieve 4.2%". But he is disputing that and I am not contradicting it because the question relates to why the Government is not proposing higher estimates for the Eighth Plan period. The question arises out of a statement made by the Chamber of Commerce. We cannot fix the growth rate either too low or too high on the basis of presumptions and assumptions. Yet, the hon. Member says we can do it. When we fixed the growth rate on the basis